

News Release

For Immediate Release

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USDA SAYS NO TAINTED BEEF IN MISSISSIPPI

Officials with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) say none of the almost 300,000 pounds of ground beef being recalled by a major meat processing company made it to Mississippi. Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) issued a voluntary recall of more than 282,000 pounds of ground beef after a sample from one of its Illinois processing plants was found to contain a virulent strain of E. coli bacteria.

“IBP published a list of meat wholesalers that could have received a shipment from their Joslin, Illinois plant processed on April 14, the day the sample found to be tainted was processed,” said Robert Lesley, Communications Director for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). “There was one wholesaler from Mississippi on that list, so our state was reported as one of 20 that possibly had contaminated beef. An investigation by USDA field officers determined that, in fact, none of the beef now being recalled ever came to Mississippi.

Health officials say that, so far, there have been no reported illnesses linked to the meat. Consumers wanting more information about the recall can contact the USDA hotline at (800) 535-4555.